1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Manipur	9	1	95	695
16.	Meghalaya	7	1	102	2803
17.	Mizoram	8	1	71	361
18.	Nagaland	7	1	56	474
19.	Orissa	30	4	432	15930
20.	Punjab	3	1	13	501
21.	Rajasthan	32	4	411	10839
22.	Sikkim	3	1	8	87
23.	Tamil Nadu	27	4	371	6430
24.	Tripura	4	1	147	655
25.	Uttar Pradesh	66	6	666	34767
26.	Uttaranchal	13	2	217	8086
27.	West Bengal	16	2	167	9125
	TOTAL:	500	81	7871	212304

Schemes to discourage surrendering of fixed lines

2584. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than seventy lakh fixed lines of BSNL have been surrendered by subscribers in various circles during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure attractive schemes to discourage surrender ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major reasons for disconnection of landline telephone connections are:

(i) Customer opting for mobile connection of BSNL.

(ii) Surrendering of second and above landline connection in view of availability of broadband connection for internet connectivity.

(iii) Customer opting for mobile/basic telephone of private operator.

(c) To retain and sustain its customers, BSNL has introduced many schemes at competitive rates for fixed telephones and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections considering the requirements of customers and prevailing market conditions from time to time. The rates offered by BSNL are competitive and affordable to the customers. BSNL has taken following steps:

(i) Reduction in tariff for all basic services.

(ii) Launch of BSNL ONE INDIA tariff scheme with effect from 01-03-2006.

(iii) Reduction in rentals for Sulabh Plan with effect from 01-10-2006.

(iv) Empowering Chief General Managers (CGMs) of Telecom Circles to launch Circle based competitive tariffs for basic and cellular services to face competition effectively.

Internet connectivity to common man

2585. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintain any statistics regarding the number of household Internet users in the country;

(b) if so, the number of household Internet users as on December 31, 2006 of each of the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that our country lags behind countries like China in number of household Internet users mainly due to high cost of Internet connectivity; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make Internet connectivity affordable to common man particularly to middle and lower middle class families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and